

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 18 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2163

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE mid 1900's

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to oral informants, the two story frame house with attic at 18 Willow Avenue was moved around the corner from its original site on York Road in the mid 1900's. No written documentation, however, was found to substantiate this claim. Nevertheless, the house's physical appearance suggests a definite move in location, but unfortunately much of the original fabric has been lost. The large cross gable structure now rests upon a cinder block foundation. It is covered with aluminum siding and the brick chimney flue is covered with formstone. Moreover, the building has, for several years, housed college students in overcrowded conditions. The interior reflects the changes brought about by this use.

The house faces north on Willow Avenue. Essentially, the structure follows a two room wide central hall plan with additions made to the rear. Six concrete steps lead to the front porch which spans the entire north facade and is floored with tongue and groove ceiling underneath.

The entrance is centrally located at the top of the porch steps. It consists of a wood door with a square inset wood panel in the upper half and two rectangular inset panels on the lower half. A closed-in transom rests above the door. On each side of the door is a 2/2 sash window encased in plain white trim. Fenestration on the second floor consists of two 2/2 sash windows with plain white trim. The attic contains one arched 2/2 sash window.

The roof line on the east facade reveals where an addition has been made to the rear of the house. Within the addition, there is a first floor window which has been partially enclosed to accommodate a smaller casement window. Fenestration in the main block consists of an oversized 2/2 sash window on the first floor and two regular 2/2 sash windows on the second floor. A cellar window cut into the cinder block foundation appears under the oversized window.

The south facade affords a better view of the two-story addition. The first floor contains a wood paneled door on the right side. To the left of the door is a smaller 1/1 sash window, as well as a larger 1/1 sash window. The second floor contains one 1/1 sash window and one 2/2 sash window.

The view of the west facade is obstructed by poison ivy, weeds, and overgrown bushes. One does see the chimney flue, covered with formstone. To the left of the flue is a 2/2 sash window on the first floor and a 2/2 sash window on the second floor. To the right of the flue is a 1/1 sash window on the first floor and one on the second floor. Fenestration on the addition is obstructed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

ERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

18 Willow Avenue, a huge cross-gable, represents a significant building type that appeared in Maryland and many parts of the East throughout the mid 19th and early 20th centuries. The structure has definitely been moved from its original site and much of the original fabric has been lost. Consequently, it is difficult to present the house as individually significant. Nevertheless, even in its altered state, the structure is a good example of an early cross-gable.

Moreover, the house is significant as an integral part of the surrounding residential neighborhood. In recent years, increased commercialization has threatened Towson's residential character. Many of the private residences which once typified Towson's built environment have been either demolished or altered in such a manner as to destroy their architectural and historic significance. The houses on Willow Avenue and Linden Terrace constitute one of the few relatively unchanged residential areas left in Central Towson. 18 Willow together with the other vernacular buildings on the street provide a visual representation of Towson's earlier character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia, 1898.
Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia, 1915.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janice E. Ruth/Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson, Inc.

DATE

September, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

120 Allegheny Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21222

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Atlas of Baltimore County. Maryland.
G.W. Bromley & Co. Philadelphia, 1898.

BA-2163

Scale: 200 ft. per inch



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PHOTOGRAPHS: 18 Willow Avenue

(Original photos in Historic Towson's Files)

BELOW: North-west Corner

